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INDIAN NAMES
OF PLACES IN
WORCESTER COUNTY
MASSACHUSETTS



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INDIAN NAMES

OF PLACES IN
WORCESTER COUNTY
MASSACHUSETTS
WITH INTERPRETATIONS OF
SOME OF THEM

By
LINCOLN N. KINNICUTT
//

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
1905

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THE COMMONWEALTH PRESS,
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“Your rivers guard our ancient names.”

“Your mountains are our monuments.”

INTRODUCTION

MY object in writing this paper is the collecting together of Worcester county Indian names, which in many cases have been known only to the very few, who, having occasion to search the original deeds, have unexpectedly found them. It is, I think, to be regretted that the Nipmuck names are not more generally used. They belong to Worcester county, and remind us that we have a past history dating far back of 1620. They were the only possessions we were unable to take from the red man, and now they have come to us as residuary legatees. These names are about the only relics of an ancient people who once inhabited our own county. The Indian before we civilized him with fire-water and European morals was far different from the Indian of a few years' subjugation to our civilizing influences, and it is our fault rather than his that a more honorable place has not been accorded to him in the history of Massachusetts and of our whole country ; it is our fault, not his, that the blot on the American escutcheon is the Indian.

The Nipmuck tribe, by whom these names were used, inhabited before 1620 certainly the greater part, if not the whole, of Worcester county, and probably their country was of much larger extent. The exact boundaries of their dominions have never been determined, and historians differ widely on this point. On a map compiled chiefly from a survey of 1774 their boundaries extended as far east as Boston and Andover, on the south to the boundary lines of Rhode Island and Connecticut, on the west to Stockbridge and Bennington, and on the north to a portion of the southern part of New Hampshire. The principal seat of the Nipmucks was in the neighborhood of Worcester.

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“The country of the Nipmoogs or Nipmucks is of very uncertain extent. Its bounds were probably never exactly understood by anybody. It was a general name for an undefined tract of inland country between the Merrimac and Connecticut rivers.” (Samuel G. Drake, *Old Indian Chronicle*, p. 141 note.)

From examination of much early colonial history and from old deeds, I am led to believe that the Nipmucks were once a numerous and important people, occupying a large extent of country, governed by one sachem (the last possibly having been Nanopashamet), and probably subdivided into many smaller tribes. Through civil war or by combination of several of the neighboring tribes, their power was destroyed, and their country divided among the Massachusetts, the Wampanoags, the Pawtuckets, the Narragansetts, and others. Some writers have believed the Nipmucks to have been inferior to the other Massachusetts Indians, but from what Gookin wrote about them this is to be doubted, and Eliot certainly must have judged them differently, as most of his Indian praying towns were in the Nipmuck country, and he selected many teachers from among them. In 1683 he wrote to a friend in London in regard to a revised edition of the Indian Bible, “we have but one man, the Indian printer, that is able to compose the sheets and correct the press with understanding.” This man was James the Printer, from Hassanamissit (Grafton).

I have also attempted to suggest the meaning of some of these names, but in the interpretation of Indian place names so many difficulties have to be overcome that it is not surprising that the best acknowledged authorities sometimes reach very different conclusions in regard to the same word. Some of the difficulties of translation are as follows:

The Indians had no written language.

Their place names were spelled differently as they sounded to the individual recorder. English spelling, even of English

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words, in deeds of the seventeenth century was very capricious. We sometimes find a common word spelled several different ways in the same deed. To represent the foreign sound of a word spoken in a strange language is always very difficult to a writer.

Differences of dialect of the various tribes. (Dr. J. H. Trumbull says, "The Mohigans and Narragansetts had different names for the same birds, fish and trees, as well as for the same rivers, ponds and hills.")

The introduction or omission of a letter for the sake of euphony by English writers. (Dr. Trumbull also says, "The methods of Algonquin synthesis are so exactly prescribed that the omission or displacement of a consonant or emphasized vocal necessarily modifies the signification of a compound word, and may often render its interpretation or analysis impossible.")

The strange corruption of place names in old records probably attributable to the use of an interpreter.

In the translation of Indian names, I believe it to be very essential that a knowledge of the exact locality should be obtained, as it is at present, and if possible as it was in the seventeenth century. Very valuable information is sometimes found by searching local histories and land grants; often a local tradition or early colonial literature will furnish valuable clues.

The Indians of New England were very practical in their place names, and almost "every name described the locality to which it was affixed." Imagination was rarely if ever used, and any translation expressing this faculty must, I think, be taken with great caution. Our Indians used their imagination, however, in other words, almost poetically. Their name for the Pleiades was "Chippapuock," the brood hen; for the belt of Orion, "Shwischacuttowwauog," a wigwam with three fires; for a trap, "Appeh," from "*Up-pacheau*," he waits for him. In their names of many plants and flowers great imagination and keen observation are expressed. The Indian place names

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translated are in many cases similar to our English ones, but for the sake of euphony, if for no other reason, many of their originals should be retained. Quinsigamond, Wachusett and Hassanamesit are more euphonious than Pickerel Pond, Hill Town and Little Stone Place, and certainly the Indian names for Dead Horse pond, Mud pond, Skunk creek, Hell lake, Round hill, Cat brook, Snake swamp, Woodchuck hollow, etc., etc., are preferable and add an attribute of dignity and attractiveness to these localities which, with our English names, they do not now possess.

I hope that my wish to rescue some of the Nipmuck place names from oblivion may be accomplished by this paper, and possibly lead to a more general use. For our country places, for some of our public institutions, and for our factories on our various streams, they certainly lend themselves with great adaptability. My list, I believe, will be found very incomplete, for there must be many records and old deeds I have not seen, and I would thankfully receive any other Worcester county names, as I hope in the near future to publish a list of the Indian names in Massachusetts.

I am greatly indebted to the publications and letters of Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull, and I have used, whenever possible, his translations and suggestions. Roger Williams' Key to the Indian Language, Wood's New England's Prospect, Josiah Cotton's Vocabulary of the Massachusetts Indian Language, Dr. Albert Gallatin's Vocabularies, and Rev. Jonathan Edwards' Observations on the Mohigan Language are the authorities I have mostly consulted.

I have included in this list a few names over the boundaries of Worcester county, as they properly belong to the Nipmuck country.

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Ahampatunshauge, Ahumpatunshauge.

Mentioned as a boundary in original deed of Rutland, March 15, 1686-87 (Middlesex Registry of Deeds, book 16, page 511): "And so to *Ahampatunshauge*, a little pond."

Asquoach, Ashquoash, Ashquoach.

A hill named in the Indian deed of Brookfield. "Must have been south of Long Hill, at the southerly point of West Brookfield."

Ashquoach was the name also of "an important Quabaug village often named in early records; was situated on Indian Hill north of Great (now Sherman's) pond, in Brimfield, and a short distance from the old Brookfield line." "This town was distinguished for its great cornfields and its defensive fort." (Temple Hist. of N. Brookfield.)

The Natick dictionary of Dr. Trumbull gives ASHQUOSH as the plural of *ashq*, *asq*, and states that "the English adopted the plural 'Asquash' as a singular, and formed a new plural, Squashes"—"Askutasquash, their vine apple, which the English from them call Squashes." (R. W.) Possibly a final syllable has been lost, and the old name signified 'a place of vine apples.'

Harry Andrew Wright translates *Asquoach*—'Iskwa-ack' the ending place.' (Indian Deeds, p. 60.)

Asnaconcomick, Asnecomcomit, Asnacomet, Commet, Comet.

A pond in the southeastern part of Hubbardston, first mentioned in an Indian deed dated Dec. 22, 1686.

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Mr. Peter Whitney, in his history of the County of Worcester, in 1793, writes: "At Little *Asnaconcomick* pond there is every appearance that once a stone wall was built, or building, in some places it is two feet and a half in height, as if laid up by the hands of men." It has "the appearance of a large stone wall thrown down."

I believe the name was first applied to the place where these stones are, rather than to either Great or Little *Asnaconcomick* ponds, as there is nothing in this name referring to water, which is almost always the case in Indian names for ponds. I would suggest from *Hassun* a stone, *quon*, *komuck*, long house or long enclosed place; 'a long place enclosed with stones.'

Little *Asnaconcomick* pond is now known as Moosehorn pond.

Asnebumskit, Hasnebumskitt.

A large hill in Paxton and Holden, and a pond in Paxton. The pond taking the name from the hill, probably derived from *Hassun*, a stone, and *ompsk*, a standing rock, with the locative suffix, at or near, signifying 'the place where a large rock rises from stony ground.' At a prominent place on the hill this is a striking feature.

In some old deeds the name is spelled *Hasnebumskeat* and *Hasnebumskeag*. It is generally called by the inhabitants "Bumskit," which is an acknowledged corruption.

Also name given to brook in Holden.

Aspomsok.

The Indian deed of the township of Towtaid (Leicester) recorded March 8, 1713-14, but made the 27th of January, 1686, mentions this hill as one of the boundaries.

Hon. Emory Washburn, in his history of Leicester, says

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“ The northern line (boundary) is assumed to be known by its running into a great hill called *Aspomsok*, which is supposed to be the hill now called *Hasnebumskit* in Paxton.

The meaning of the name may be the same as *Aspanock*, which Trumbull says is “ perhaps the equivalent of *Sebonack* in Southampton, L. I., from *Sipumak*, ground nuts, Indian potatoes,” and formerly these plants were found in abundance in this vicinity, but I believe it is another form of expressing the same meaning as *Hasnebumskit*, both being corruptions of the same word, *Hassun*, a stone, *ompsk*, a standing rock, with the locative suffix.

(See *Asnebumskit*.)

Assabet.

A river rising in Berlin, Grafton, and Northboro, flows through Westboro, Northboro, forms the north branch of the Concord river.

In the earliest records of Marlboro it is written *Asabett* or *Assabett*. In the report of the Canal Commission, about 1825, it is written *Elizebeth*, and is supposed to be a corruption of Elizabeth (Worcester Magazine, p. 132).

From a publication of the Concord Antiquarian Society, by Mr. Adams Tolman, 1903, I quote the following: “ Possibly the stream was named Elizabeth by some early dweller upon its banks, and the Indians, unable to master either the ‘l’ or the ‘th’ sounds, got as near it as they could. The Rev. N. W. Jones, in a pamphlet published in New York in 1867, translates *Assabet* by ‘miry place,’ but he gives no derivation, and I am unable to find in any of the vocabularies any authority or support for his view. Personally, I am inclined to derive it from *Assim*, meaning ‘a fountain from which water is drawn for drinking,’ and so used in Eliot’s Bible; *et*, *ut*, ‘it’ or ‘at,’—the sound of T preceded by an obscure vowel,—was an insep-

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arable particle conveying the idea of place, *Assabet*, then, I should translate as "the stream we drink from." Higher up on the river I find it sometimes called *Assabasset*, which would mean "a drinking place where the water widens out."

Possibly from Ashäp, Ashappog (Cotton), net, nets, referring to a place where nets were used for fishing.

Assawaga, Assawogga.

Name of river in Conn., formerly part in Massachusetts, now called Five Mile river. See *Nashaway*.

Calamint, NOT AN INDIAN NAME.

Hill in southern part of Princeton. I have been unable to find it mentioned in any of the old deeds or boundaries of the country in the neighborhood of Princeton. Tradition says that it was so named from the herb *calamint*, which was found in abundance on this hill.

Augutteback.

A pond in the western part of Oxford.

In the division of thirty thousand acres of the original grant of Oxford among five individuals "Augutteback" pond was the only permanent bound mentioned. All the others were marked trees, heaps of stones or stakes. This deed, dated July 3, 1698, was found in London in 1872, and is now in possession of the New York Hist. Soc. Cox copy is in the library of the Am. Anticq. Soc. in Worcester, and also printed in full in Amidown's Historical Collections, 1-128. Mr. Whitney gives the name "Augootsback," but I can find no authority.

I believe that this name is a corruption of *Ahkuhq-paug* or *Aucuck-pag*, 'Kettle pond,' from the fact that many soapstone

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pots have been found in this vicinity, and a ledge or deposit of soapstone is still in existence, where many signs of Indian work have been discovered. From *Ohkuk* (Narr. *Aucuck*) (Cotton. *Ohkuke*), 'a pot or vessel.'

Cataconamog, Catecunemaug, Cateconimoug, Cata-coonamug.

A pond in the S. E. part of Lunenburg, and S. W. part of Shirley, now Shirley reservoir. Also name given to stream rising in the western or central part of Lunenburg; flows through the pond, through Shirley into the Nashua. Probably from *Kehahe* or *K'che-quon-amarug*, 'the great long fishing place.' As the stream, from the river to the pond, is a series of small ponds, this is the natural signification of the name, and probably was first applied to the pond, and stream between the pond and river.

Chaubunakongkomuk (Eliot 1668) Chabanakong-komun (Gookin).

Mrs. Freeland in her history of Oxford says, "Sometimes named *Chaubunagungamaug* and *Char-gog-ga-gog-man-chog-a-gog*." The Indian name for the land about Dudley and Webster; *Chaubunakongomaug*, the present name of the large pond in Webster.

Dr. Trumbull says, "The name as written by Eliot means a boundary place," and the name of the pond meant "fishing place at the boundary." He also says the longer name "retains only a suggestion of its original and incorporated with it the name of the Indian village of Monuhchogok."

Kekamoochaug was another name for land about Dudley, and possibly had about the same signification.

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Kuhkham, 'he marks out,' *Kukkuh heg*, 'a land mark, a boundary.'

Chequapee, Chickopee, Chicabee.

A large river in the central western part of Massachusetts flowing into the Conn. Whitney spells it "Chicabee" and describes it as the name given to the Ware river after receiving the Quaboag river which comes from Brookfield (page 324). The name is also now given to a city and county north of Springfield.

Probably from "chikee" or "chekeyeu," 'it rages' or 'is violent,' and 'pe' the root of names of 'water' in nearly all Algonquin dialects, 'raging or rushing water.'

Chikkup also was the name for Cedar tree, and *Chikkuppee*, an adjective meaning 'of cedar.' Possibly the name is a corruption of *Chikkuppee, auke*, and was first applied to the land in the vicinity of the river, 'Cedar country.'

Chesquonopog, Chesquonapoage.

Pond in the northern part of Lancaster, "mentioned as early as 1660 in (Lancaster) town records . . . probably what is known as White's pond." (Lancastriana, Nourse, p. 9.)

The apparent derivation is *K'che-quinne-paug*, 'the great long pond,' but it is not characteristic of White's pond.

Possibly the name is a corruption of *Kehtequamitch*, 'thumb,' *pog*, 'pond,' and was the name of Little Spectacle pond, from the resemblance to a thumb of Spectacle pond. Little Spectacle pond is a little over a mile from White's pond.

Chocksett. See WOONKSECHOCKSETT.

Name of land in the vicinity of Sterling.

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Chockolog, Shockolog, Shokalog.

Pond in the southwest part of Uxbridge. This word is written in many different ways and on the late published maps it is spelled *Chockaloc*. Hon. Henry Chapin wrote it *Shokalog*. I do not attempt an interpretation in its present form but should suppose from its termination it originally referred to land rather than to water.

Cohasset, Cohasee.

Brook in Southbridge. The same name as the town on Massachusetts Bay.

The name of the brook in Southbridge, probably came from the land name *Cowassit*, 'small or young pine land,' but the name of the town is given in Nason's Massachusetts Gazetteer as from "*Connohassit*, which signifies 'a fishing promontory.' "

Also *Cohasset*, rocks, and *Connohassit*, river—both near the town. The original name, however, was *Conohasset* (see Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. 2, series 3, p. 84).

Equies.

Brook and swamp mentioned in early history of North Brookfield. Possibly a corruption of *Tant-equies-on*, "a Mohegan captain."

(See *Tantousque*), or used as a boundary mark. (See *Wequaes*.)

Hassanamiset, Hassanamesitt, Hassanamisco, Hassunimesut.

The name of Grafton, near Worcester. Was one of the

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most important of the villages of the praying Indians. Gookin, in his "Historical Collections of the Indians in New England," written in 1674, says: "The name signifies a place of small stones," probably derived from *Hassun*, a stone; *Haseunemes*, a little stone, with the locative affix, *et* or *it*. Hutchinson wrote the name "Hassunimesut" (Hist., vol. 1, p. 156).

James, the Printer, who was distinguished for his assistance in printing the Indian Bible, being employed in setting up the type, was a native of *Hassanamiset*.

"A school was established here where the Bible was read and studied in the Indian language. Young men were here educated and sent into the neighboring towns to preach the Gospel as Christian teachers." (Mrs. Freeland's History of Oxford.)

Hassunnek.

A name sometimes given to an overhanging rock on Stone house hill in Holden, from which the hill takes its name. This name was never used by the Indians for this locality, but although modern is a literal translation.

Assineck (Hassunnek, Eliot), 'ledge of rocks.' Eliot used this word for any cave or den.

Hosokie.

A meadow mentioned as a boundary of the land of James Atherton in early records of Lancaster (p. 253), "buting east-erly upon sum part of the Hosokie meadow." Probably a part of this word is lost. *Asuhkane* = (it comes) after.

Hobomoco, Hobomoc.

A pond in the northwestern part of Westborough near the Boston & Albany Railroad.

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Hobbamoco was the Indian god of Evil, or Devil. In Wood's N. E. Prospect he is called *Abamocho* (pt. 2, chap. 8). In many Indian legends his name occurs. In West Millbury there is a large upright flat rock called *Hobbamoco's* quoit, which by Indian tradition *Hobbamoco* attempted to throw from Wachusett mountain into Manchaug pond, and failed by about half a mile. The hill near the pond in Westborough was supposed to be one of his dwelling places.

“There is another pond in Westborough which was called *Hobbamocke*, from some supposed infernal influence, which a man was unhappily under nigh that pond, from morning till the sun set” (Mass. Hist. Soc.’s Collections, series 2, vol. 10, p. 84).

Kekamoochaug. See CHAUBUNAKONGKOMUK.

Kekamaquag. See KEKAMOWADCHAUG.

Kekamowadchaug.

Between Woodstock and Oxford.

Possibly this may be derived from *Quequan*, ‘it shakes or trembles,’ and *Wadshu-aukee*, ‘trembling-hill-place.’

Quequan, used as a noun, an earthquake. *Kwekwun* (Cree), ‘it (the earth) trembles.’

The first deed, recorded in Worcester, to Jonothan Newell is dated March 31, 1727, in which Joseph Edmonds “belonging to a farm called Kekamowadchaug between Woodstock and Oxford,” etc.

The first deed to William Carter is “land in Kekamaquag,” “which early settlers used in designating lands which lay to the west of Pegan’s Hill.”

Kekamowadchaug, *Kekamaquag*, *Keekamoochuck*, may all be corruptions of the same name.

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Kequasagansett.

The old name of lake in eastern part of Berlin, now called Gates pond—at the eastern base of Sawyer hill.

(See *Kekamowadchaug.*)

Kuttatuck, Kuttutuck, Tittituck, Kittituck.

One of the names of the Blackstone river. In Indian deed Feb. 10, 1681, of a tract of land which included what is now Oxford, to William Stoughton and Joseph Dudley; it is described as “*Kuttutuck* or *Nipmug* river.”

Trumbull says: “The great river called *Kuttatuck* or *Nipmug* river,” so named in the first deed of the Nipmuck country by the Natick Indians in 1681. *Khetetuk* means ‘great’ or ‘principal’ river.”

Kehti, ‘chief, principal, greatest;’ *tuk*, ‘a tidal or broad river.’

Lashaway.

Name given to the large outlet of Wicoboag pond, in the southern part of West Brookfield, about twenty or thirty rods in length; empties in to the Quinebaug river (Whitney’s Hist. Co. of Worcester, page 79).

This probably is the same name as *Nashaua*, and was applied first to the land between the river and the pond. Some of the Nipmucks substituted “l” for “n” of other tribe dialects.

Mentioned in Indian deed of Brookfield, Nov. 10, 1665.

Nashaua-ohke, ‘the land between.’

Maanexit, Mayanexit, Mananexit.

A river rising in Liecester, runs through Oxford and Web-

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ster, flows into the Quinnebaug at Thompson, Conn. It is now also called French river.

Also name of an Indian village in or near the north part of Woodstock (now Thompson). "The meaning of the name is not known. It may have been formed from *Mayano*, 'there is a path or road,' or its participle *Maanog*, 'where the path is,' since the Indian village was near the old "Connecticut Path" to and from Massachusetts; but if so, the termination or affix is obscure; or it may come from *Miyanau*, 'he gathers together,' participle *Mayanuk*, 'when (or where) he gathers them together,' alluding to the establishment of a community of Christian Indians at this place." (Trumbull's Indian names in Conn., p. 28.)

If this translation is correct, the name must have been given to the place by Eliot.

Magomiscock.

The highest hill in Milford. The Indians gave the name probably to the whole range of hills. Mr. Ballou, in his history of Milford, says: "The name may be rendered, 'ground affording a grand show.' Its compounds appear to be *Magko*, to afford, give, or grant, *missee*, swollen, large, showy, grand, and *ohke*, earth, ground or place, literally, a high swell of land affording a grand prospect of the surrounding country."

I would suggest, however, that the base word of this name may be " *Ompsk* " (standing or upright rock), var. *msk-msq ms*, etc., and the name might be translated, 'Great Rock Country,' 'a place of great rocks.' Adin Ballou in his history speaks of the primitive ledges and the superabundance of various sized rocky fragments, preventing the profitable tillage of a considerable portion of the high lands (page 22). At the present day the quarries of Milford are celebrated.

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Makamacheckamucks.

A hill in the western part of Harvard, now Prospect Hill. Mentioned in Lancaster Book of Lands as boundaries of home lots of the first settlers.

Henry S. Nourse said, "There is but one *Makamacheckamucks*, the rock strewn hill named for the *Catacoonamaug* chief-tain." (Address before Clinton Hist. Soc., March 9, 1896.)

In a copy of an obligation that this Indian chief gave to John Tinker, Feb. 13, 1656, the name is written *Mahmachecko-mok* and *Mamacocomak* (Groton during the Indian Wars, p. 180, Dr. Sam'l A. Green). The original is in the Middlesex County Court.

Manchaug.

Land about Oxford.

Gookin, in 1674, speaks of Manchaugas a village of Christian Indians in Nipmuck country, about eight miles west of Nipmuck river. John Eliot wrote the name "*Monuhchogok*" (Mass. Archives, Indians, 1-146).

Manchaug is now the name of a pond in the southwestern part of Sutton and northwestern part of Douglas, and also of the hills between Oxford and Sutton.

Following the theory that Eliot named many of the Indian praying towns, William Wallace Tooker suggests from "*Menuh kхи kook*, Ye shall be strengthened" (vol. 10, p. 43, Algonquian series).

Mashamugget, Mashgmuggett, Mashamarket.

A hill in about the centre of Charlton.

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This may be the same name as given to a brook which runs through Pomfret, Conn., “*Mashamoquet*,” and probably first applied to one or all of the three brooks which almost surround this hill. The name signifies, ‘At the great fishing place,’ *massa*, ‘great,’ *amaug*, ‘fishing place,’ with the locative affix, *et*.

I would suggest a corruption of *Massa-moskeht-auck*, ‘Great grass country.’

Maspenock.

A pond in the southwest corner of Hopkinton, and in a very small part of Milford, now called North pond (Indian deed of Feb. 19, 1691-92, Mendon Records).

Mr. Adin Ballou, in his history of Milford, says: “*Maspenock* literally means ‘choice fishing place,’ from *Namas*, fish or relating to fish, *pepenam*, to choose, and *ohke*, land, ground, place.” (Hist. of Milford, Ballou, p. 29.)

The name now is also given to Mill river, which rises in the pond and flows through Mendon, Blackstone and Woonsocket. The Indian word “*Peonogok*” *Pemaogok* signified “Where the path is narrow,” and *Maspeonoguk* would probably mean ‘the Great narrow way or path’ and certainly could well be applied to the long narrow valley of the *Maspenock* river.

Masquabamisk.

Mentioned as a boundary in deed of the purchase of Quabaug (Brookfield), from Shattoockquis to Lieut. Thomas Cooper, Nov. 10th, 1665.

“Taking in all the wet meadow and meadows called *Masquabamisk* and *Nantomqua*” (Mass. Hist. Coll., series 1, vol. 1, p. 269).

It was the valley of Mason’s brook (Temple Hist. N. Brookfield).

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Massequockummis.

Boundary mentioned in deed of Quabaug (Brookfield) land from *Shattoockquis* to Lieut. Thomas Cooper, Nov. 10, 1665.

“Another brook where meadow is.” (Mass. Hist. Coll., ser. 1, vol. 1, p. 269.)

“*Massequockummis* was Coy’s brook.” (Temple Hist. of N. Brookfield.)

Harry Andrew Wright translates this name—“The little marshy meadow” (Indian Deeds, p. 60).

Masshapauge.

Pond in the southern part of Lunenburg, from *Massa*, ‘large,’ and *paug*, ‘pond.’ This same name occurs with some little variations throughout Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, and was applied to the large pond in the locality. *Massapaug*, *Mashipaug*, *Shepaug*, were probably the same. Trumbull says *Sebago* lake in Maine was the equivalent, the initial “M” having been lost.

I believe, however, that the name of this pond in Lunenburg is derived from, or a corruption of, *Mache-paug*, and signifies ‘bad or poor pond,’ as *Unkachewalwick* and *Catecunemaug* ponds are very near, and both much larger. From a survey in 1750, a marsh very near this pond is described as “not land nor water and partly both” (Hist. Worc. County, Hurd, vol. 1, p. 760), and this name may first have been applied to the marshy pond.

Matchuk.

A meadow and brook in Brookfield.

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"There were two meadows, Great and Little *Matchuk*, both situated on Coy's Brook—'*Matchuk* Brook' (probably taking its name from the meadows) was the upper east branch of Coy's stream." (Temple Hist. of N. Brookfield.)

The name probably comes from *Matche-auke*, 'bad,' land, signifying that the meadows were boggy or swampy ground.

Menamesick, Menameset. (MENEMESSEG, Mass. Hist. Coll., series 1, vol. 6, p. 205.

Meminimisset, brook in the west part of New Braintree. J. H. Temple, in history of North Brookfield, says: "In 1675 the able bodied warriors of the *Quabaug* clans suddenly left their ancestral towns and concentrated at the *Mename-seek* Country, in the north part of New Braintree and adjacent part of Barre." "They built three towns on the Ware (*Menameseek*) river." "The lower of these towns was on an island, a plot of dry land surrounded by wet swamp on the easterly side of *Wenimisset* brook."

Mr. Temple also says: "The Indian name of this stream signifies 'Great fishing basket' or 'Fishing weir,' and their village or villages built on the banks would be *Men-a-me-seek-et*, contracted *Menameset*, now more often written *Meminimisset* or *Wenimisset*." This was the place of Mrs. Rowlandson's second remove, and here she buried her murdered child in Feb., 1676.

Menamerick seems to have been the name of the river in 1686 (Hampden Co. Rec., liber D, folio 237); *Menemesseg*, the name of the three Indian towns in 1675 (James Quana-paug's Information, Mass. Hist. Coll.), and *Winnimissett* the present name of the brook flowing into Ware river.

Menomee.

Mentioned in registration of land in Winchendon.

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This may be another form or corruption of *Monomonack*, lake, or possibly *Menomes*, the diminutive, referring to that part of the great lake, which is almost a little pond in itself, in which is *Pe kese* Island. (See *Monomonack*.)

Metewemesick.

“An Indian settlement near Sturbridge, ‘Place of black earth,’ from the occurrence of the article.” (Wm. Wallace Tooker, Algonquian series, vol. 8, p. 33.)

Miscoe.

Brook near the eastern boundary of Grafton. This name without doubt is a corruption of *Hassanamisco*, and is comparatively modern, although named for an Indian. George’s hill, which is very near it, was so called from George Miscoe, who lived there, and the brook is called George’s brook in the History of Grafton by Pierce in 1879.

(See *Hassanameset*.)

Miscoe, Misquoe, Miskee.

A hill in the northwestern part of Mendon and in Upton. Whitney’s History gives the two last spellings. Possibly from *Mishadchee Mishchoo*, meaning ‘great hill.’

Moantuhcake.

A hill near Washacum.

Mentioned in Indian deed of Quanapaug, alias James Wiser, to John Prescott, 1669, “the hill beinge called by the name of *Moantuheake*.” (From Shattuck Manuscripts in possession of the New England Genealogical Society.)

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Mocassin.

A brook, which rises in the southern part of Phillipston, flows into Petersham, and empties into Rutland brook.

Mokur, Mokis, Mokkussin was the Indian name for shoe.

(*Pl. Mokkussinash*) "made of their deer skin worn out." (R. W.)

This name was probably given to the brook by the early settlers, not by the Indians, as it is not descriptive or in any way pertaining to water. Many Indian names are misused in this manner.

Mohawk.

Name of brook and of two hills in North Brookfield.

Mohawk brook in North Brookfield ran between the two Mowhawk hills, and into Sucker brook (Temple, Hist. of North Brookfield, p. 15). Named from the Mohawk tribe of Indians, the head of the five nations, formerly on Mohawk river. The name signifies Man-eaters, from "mohau," 'he eats what is alive,' "moho," 'to eat alive.' (R. W.)

Monomonack.

A lake in Rindge, N. H., a small part extending into Winchendon.

From the termination of this name in its present form it seems to have been applied first to the land, or country, about the lake, *ack*, from *auke*, signifying 'place' or 'land.'

The Indian name *Monomansuonk* signified 'a vision,' and *moneam* 'he looks upon,' or 'he beholds it.' Possibly this name may come from the same root, and signifies 'the outlook

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place.' Ezra S. Stearns says, in his history of Rindge, that the name is supposed to be derived from *Monan* or *Menan*, 'an island' (Hist. of R., p. 15). If so, it may be a corruption of *Munnohan-aukee*, meaning 'island place.'

(See *Monoomock*.)

Monoosnoc, Monoosuck.

Hills in the northwestern part of Leominster and southern part of Fitchburg. Also name of the brook which rises at the hill and runs southeasterly through the town of Leominster. In Whitney's History it is called *Wauhnoosnook* (page 197). Probably the hill took the name from the brook. I would suggest *Monoi* or *Moonoi-suck*, 'deep brook.' The "Monoosuck Hills" are mentioned several times in Early Records of Lancaster.

Mossonachud.

Boundary hill mentioned in the Indian deed of *Towtaid* (Leicester), "and from thence to a little hill called *Mossonachud*." Jan., 1686.

Mushoon-achu-et would signify at 'Canoe Hill,' possibly the place where the trees for canoes came from.

Mussoonk-adchu, 'Hill covered with dry trees.'

Muschopauge, Muscopauge, Mustapauge.

A large pond in the eastern part of Rutland. Also name of a hill in its vicinity.

The pond is first mentioned in the Indian deed of 1686 (recorded Reg. of Deeds, Middlesex Co., vol. 16, p. 511) as "Muscopauge."

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This name may be from *Moskeht*, paug, 'grassy pond,' and the same word signifies herbs, and medicine. Mr. Jonas Reed, in his History of Rutland, says: "On *Muschopage* Hill there is a place of roots and herbs called the Indian garden," or more probably from *Musquash-paug* or *Mooskou-paug*, 'muskrat pond.'

Mulpus.

A brook. Rises in the northwestern part of Lunenburg, flows through northern Lunenburg and through Shirley into the Nashua. Some historians believe it to be an Indian name, but Rev. Seth Chandler in his History of Shirley writes: "tradition saith that it derived its name from a Frenchman by the name of Mulpus, who lived in Lunenburg, near its source" (p. 33).

Musshauge, Musehauge.

Mentioned in the Indian deed of Rutland as one of the boundaries in 1686. It is there specified as "a great swamp." The derivation may possibly be from *Matche-auke*, 'bad land,' or *Moskehtauge*, 'grass land.'

Nacommuck.

Brook in Brookfield flowing into the Quaboag river, very near the outlet of Quaboag pond—now Moore's brook.

It is quite probable that the brook takes its name from a point of land running into the pond, or a point of land between the river and the brook—from *Naiag*, point or corner, and *Komuk* an inclosed place. In Indian deed of Brookfield, Nov. 10, 1665, it is mentioned as "brook where meadow is." (Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. 1, p. 269, series 1.) I should suppose it

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meant an enclosed point of land. *Komuk* or variation *Commuck* was often used for long house, or long enclosed place.

Naggawoomcom, or "GREAT POND."

Pond in the northern part of Westborough, now Chauncey pond. "It was by the Indians anciently termed *Naggawoomcom* or Great Pond" (Mass. Hist. Soc. Collections, 2nd series, vol. 10, p. 84.)

Naltaug.

Boundary in Indian deed of Quaboag, Nov. 10, 1665.

"To a brook or stream called *Naltaug*" (Mass. Hist. Coll., ser. 1, vol. 1, page 269).

"*Naultaug* was Dean's brook in Warren" (Temple Hist. of N. Brookfield).

Nanantomqua. See MASQUABAMISK.

"Was the meadow and low land lying south of the river and southwest of the Quabaug pond" (Temple Hist. of N. Brookfield).

Naquag.

A general name for the territory now comprising Rutland, Oakham, Hubbardston, Barre and parts of Princeton and Paxton. Mentioned in Indian deed of March 15th, 1686-87, and recorded 1714 (Middlesex Reg. of Deeds, book 16, page 511). Possibly the same as *Naiyag*, an angle or corner, and used by the Indians as a boundary. (*Naig*, 'point corner.')

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Natty.

Pond in Hubbardston.

If this is an Indian name it has been much corrupted. Possibly from *Nehtippaen* or *Natippaen*. 'It is covered with water.'

"*Natty* pond, northeast from the village is small in extent, and so surrounded by bushes and wet boggy meadows that it is not a place of much resort" (Stowe Hist. of Hubbardston, p. 5).

Nashaway, Nashaue, Nashawogg, LANCASTER.

From *Nashaue-ohke*, 'the land between,' and in this place referred to the land between the branches of the river. The name was transferred to the river itself. We find this root in many Indian names in various localities, mutilated sometimes in many ways. *Ashawog*, *Assawog*, *Natchaug* probably conveyed about the same idea. *Shawamug* meant the half-way fishing place.

2. Ancient name of land near QUINNATISSET between QUINEBAUG and FRENCH TOWN rivers, now in Conn.

Naukeag, Naukheag.

Name in early records applied to the neighborhood of Ashburnham. Now the name of two ponds in Ashburnham called in Whitney's History of Worcester County, Great and Little *Naukheag*, but on modern maps Upper and Lower *Naukeag*.

This may be from *Noohki-auke*, 'soft land;' or possibly a corruption of *Nagout-aukee*, 'sand place.'

"On the banks of Little *Naukheag* is a white sand equal in

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fineness and whiteness to that on the banks of Cape Anne '' (Whitney's Hist. of Worc. Co., p. 266).

Neesepegesuck.

Name of two small ponds in the southern central part of Ashby, now called Wright's ponds. This name, with very little doubt, is a corruption of *Neese-paug-suck* = 'two pond brook,' the ponds taking the name from the brook which is now called Pearl brook.

Nemoset.

Mountain between Ashby and Ashburnham. In this form I can make no translation. There is a slight suggestion of the word *Nammiogset*, *Name-auk-set*, 'near the fishing place,' and there are several ponds in its close vicinity. It is now known as Blood hill.

Nichewaug, Nichewoag, Nitchawog.

A village in the southwestern part of Petersham, and the original name of land about Petersham.

"It had been a seat for Indians, and was called many years by its Indian name, which was *Nichewaug*." (Whitney's Hist. of Worcester Co.) It apparently was an important settlement, one of the Indian trails from Lancaster divided at the foot of "Great Wachusett," one branch on the north and the other on the south side of the mountain, but both leading to *Nichewaug*.

I believe this name has the same derivation as *Nashawag*, *Nashaway*, *Ashawog* and *Natchaug*, viz., *Nashau-auke*, 'the land between.' If the name was first applied to the land about the present village of *Nichewaug*, it is appropriate, as the place is

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completely surrounded by brooks, with the exception of a small boundary on the east.

Or a corruption from *Neeshewawog*, *Neesh* (two) and *paug* (corrupted often to *Pawog*) (pond). There are two small ponds very near together in this part of Petersham.

Neeshawog, 'Eels.'

Neeseponset.

Large pond in the northeast corner of Dana.

Possibly this may be a corruption of *Neese-paugset*, 'near the two ponds.' The pond in the present condition is long and very narrow in one part. Formerly it might have been two ponds, or the name might have referred to *Neeseponset* pond and to *Thompson's* pond in New Salem, there being a very short distance between the two.

Nipmuck, Nipmug, Nipnet.

A tribe of Indians. The territory of the *Nipmuck* Indians. The country of the Nipmucks is of very uncertain extent. Drake says "its bounds were probably never exactly understood by anybody." From another historian's account, "The Nipnet region extended from Marlborough to the south end of Worcester county, and around by the Brookfields through *Washakins* to the northern boundaries of the state."

Dr. Trumbull defines the name: "From *nippe*, 'fresh water,' *nip-amaug*, 'fresh water fishing place; ' *Nippinet*, 'in a place of water or well watered.'

"*Nipmucks*, i. e., fresh water fishermen, was a general name for the inland Indians between eastern Massachusetts and the valley of the Connecticut. Their principal seats were north of the county line in Worcester county, Mass., and along *Nipmuck* (now Blackstone) river."

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Nipmuck, *Nipnet* were also names for the Blackstone river. *Nipmug*, one of the original names of the country about Mendon; also the present name of a large pond in western central part of Mendon, from which probably the plantation takes its name. Also name of pond N. E. part of Webster.

Nonacoicus, Nonecoicus, Nanajcoyijcus.

A farm, brook and pond N. W. corner of Harvard, and the S. W. part of Ayer. Dr. Saml. A. Green found a writing probably relating to this name, in a book once owned by Judge Sewall, and I quote part of a paper he read before the Mass. Hist. Soc., "On a fly leaf at the beginning of the book is the following note in Judge Sewall's handwriting, '*Nunacoquis* signifies an Indian earthern pot, as Hannah, Hahatan's squaw, tells me, March 24, 169 $\frac{8}{9}$,' which throws some light on the meaning of an Indian word. . . ." Dr. Green also read a letter received by him from George J. Burns, Esq., of Ayer, part as follows: "Near the mouth of the *Nonacoicus* brook there is a succession of irregular ridges or small hills which surround, or inclose, various hollows or basins" (Mass Hist. Soc. Records, vol. 8, 2nd series, pages 209-10-11).

From this I believe the original name may have been *Nunae ohkuk-es-et*. *Nunae*, 'dry,' 'at the small dry earth pots,' or possibly 'at the small earth pots where water sifts through,' derived from *Nanah-kinig*, a sieve.

Nunae-Cowawesuck, or *nunae koowas*, 'dry pines.'

Nookagee, Nockege.

Name of a small stream, now Phillips brook, rising in Ashburnham and flowing into the "North Branch" Nashua river at West Fitchburg. This name, however, is supposed to have

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been the original name of the North Branch. *Nockege* Mills at Fitchburg. In early records “*Naukeag*” was the name for the land about or near Ashburnham, and probably from this land name the water name was taken.

(See *Naukeag*.)

Ockoocangansett.

“The Indian name for the hill back of the old meeting-house in Marlborough” (Hist. of Northborough, Worc. Mag., vol. 2, pp. 132-141).

“Hutchinson quoting from Eliot writes it *Oggouonikongqua-mesut* (p. 156, vol. 1). Gookin, in 1674, wrote it *Okommaka-mesit*.”

This hill had been used as a planting field by the Indians probably for many years before our knowledge of the country. It was deeded to Daniel Gookin by the Indians in 1677, and is described in the deed by them as “being broken up and planted by us and our predecessors.”

The true interpretation of the name I believe to be very doubtful, but ‘at the planting field’ may be very near its meaning—“*ohkeehkonat*,” ‘to plant.’ “*Ohkehhonittinneat*,” to be planted (Cotton, p. 209).

Mr. Wm. Wallace Tooker, in his very careful analysis of names of some of the Indian praying towns, finds that several were of Eliot’s naming, and gives it the meaning of “at the place numbered to come upon; that is to say, a place numbered among those regularly visited by Eliot” (Algonquian series, vol. 10, p. 39).

Packachoog, Pakachoag, Boggachoag.

A hill in the southeastern part of the city of Worcester. Lincoln, in his history of Worcester, gives twelve different

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spellings of this name. Gookin speaks of it in 1675 as the name of one of the Indian praying villages, and says, "This town is denominated from a delicate spring of water that is there." But we also have *Pachaug* (*Pachau-auke*), denoting a turning place, and at this point the Blackstone or *Nipmuck* river winds around the hill, and therefore might signify, 'the land where the river turns.'

Also another name of the Blackstone river. "It was called by the Indians *Packachoag*" (Worcester Mag., vol. 1, p. 108).

Pattaquottuck. Now QUADDICK.

A factory village in the southeast part of Thompson, Conn., on Five Mile river. On Miss Larned's ancient map of Windham Co., it is written *Pottaquattic*. Formerly in Massachusetts, north of Woodward's and Saffery's line.

Pattuckakauun, meaning a round house (R. W. Key, p. 47) may have some bearing on this word.

Pautauge.

Hill in West Brookfield between Coy's and the West Ragged bills mentioned in Brookfield Book of Land Grants (Temple). It may be derived from *Pootoae*, "bulging out or jutting."

Paut-auge. 'Bulging out land.'

Paupakquamcock, Paupogquinog.

A pond mentioned in the original deed of Leicester. "And westerly, the most southermost corner, upon a little pond called Paupakquamock" (Indian deed of the township).

Dr. Trumbull gives in his Indian names "*Paupasquachuke*, from *papasku-adchu-auke*, 'double hill land.' " (I. N. in Conn., p. 47.)

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I believe this name may have the same derivation, *papa-sku-amcock* (from *amaug*), 'the double pond or fishing place,' and possibly it referred to two ponds in the northern part of Charlton. Hon. Emory Washburn says in his history of Leicester, "The western line cannot now be ascertained or identified."

Penacook, Penecuck, Penecook.

An old name of that part of the Nashua river in Lancaster after being joined by the North river or North branch.

"Which hath bin named and herebye is named *Penecuck* riuver which taketh his name and begineth at the meeting of Nashaway and the North riuers." (First grant of lots, Lancaster, Nourse, E. R. of Lan., p. 33.)

Henry S. Nourse also says in his Early Records of Lancaster (page 33) that it is "said to mean a crooked place, from *penaqui* (crooked), and *auke* (place)."

Roger Williams gives *penayi*, 'crooked' (p. 56). Beau-camp in his "Indian Names in New York" gives *Pennacook*, 'a crooked place.'

Peonogok signifies "Where the path is narrow," and this translation may be the right one.

Penkese.

An island in Monomonack lake, N. E. part of Winchendon.

Possibly a corruption of *Pongqui-eset*, 'at the little shallow place,' referring to that part of the lake—*Pongui*, 'shallow,' *Ponque*, 'dry.'

Podunk.

"Quabaug Pond, now more generally denominated *Podunk*, from a tract of meadow adjoining which the Indians called *Podunk*." (Whitney's Wor. Co. History, p. 77.)

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A name misapplied to *Quabaug* pond in Brookfield. Originally it was a small meadow, given as one of the boundaries in Indian deed of Brookfield, Nov. 10, 1665. Mr. J. H. Temple, in his History of North Brookfield, says : "The name signified 'Place of burning,' i. e., burning captives." (Page 28.)

2. A brook in So. Windsor, Conn.
3. *Potunk*, a part of Shinnecock bay, in Southampton, L. I. 'Place where the foot sinks' (Wm. Wallace Tooker), and I think probably the same translation applies to *Podunk*.

Pompociticut and Shabbukin.

"Were the names for land about Stow from two notable hills." (Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll., vol. 10, series 2, p. 83.)

Pomagusset.

Brook rising in the N. E. part of Rutland, flowing west into Ware river. Also name of a meadow through which the brook runs.

This may be a corruption of *Pum mee-kussehtanip*, which would mean 'oily brook' or 'stream,' or *Pummech kussehtanip*, 'a stream going across or crossing' (some path or trail).

Pompwanganug, Pomponagang.

Formerly in Massachusetts. Hill between Woodstock and Thompson, very near the Massachusetts line. (Miss Larned's map in History of Windham Co.)

Ponikin, Ponnakin.

(See *Quassaponikin*.)

Name now given to a hill in the N. E. part of Charlton, near

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Little river. Probably means, 'The fording place,' or 'The shallow place.' (See *Quassaponikin.*)

Panoquin was the name of a Narragansett who aided in the attack on Lancaster in February, 1675, purchasing Mrs. Rowlandson of the Narragansett who captured her at that time (R. I. Hist. Coll., 3, p. 173).

Poohookapog, Pookookappog, Poohpoohsaug.

Or Alum pond. In the northwest corner of Sturbridge. This pond was in the original tract of land of 1,000 acres given to the Rev. John Eliot by the Indians (see Wallum). On a map made from a survey of this land June 2, 1725, this entry is made: "The name *Poohpoohsaug* or *Alum* pond signifies cats and dogs in the Nipmuck tongue." From another source "It has been ascertained that both these names are of native dialect; *Alum* signifies dog, and *Poohookapog* is a corruption of the word that signifies cats, *Poohpoohsnog*, cat is *Poopoh*." (Amidon's Hist. Coll., page 11, vol. 2.)

Popoloup.

An island in Monomonack lake, N. E. part of Winchendon.

Poquaig, Payquaoge.

(Worcester Magazine.) Indian name of land about Winchendon, also of Athol, and of Miller's river, which rises in Minomee pond in Winchendon, flows through Royalston and Athol.

This name originally must have applied to the land about the river, and it is undoubtedly derived from *Pauqu'unauke*, signifying 'cultivated land;' 'cleared land.' This name is found frequently with slightly varying form. In Whitney's History

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of Worcester County it is spelled *Bayquage*. As the Indian name of land near Athol it is given *Pequag*, *Payquage*, *Pequioq*.

Pottapoug.

Pond and hill in the S. W. part of Dana—outlet into Chicopee river. Pautapaug denotes a bay or cove that has a narrow inlet from a river or the sea. The literal meaning is a “bulging out” or ‘jutting’ of the water inland. (Trumbull.) The hill probably took the name from the pond.

Potepog, Potepaug, Potebaug.

A stream and meadow in Brookfield. This name, although very like the preceding, is probably the same as *Pootapaug*, signifying a boggy or swampy land, “*Pe-to-beg*,” ‘a bog’ (Schoolcraft).

Mr. Levi B. Chase states that the name in Brookfield comes from the “*Putikookupoggs, Indians*,” which is the old name made shorter and pronounceable.” The home of this small tribe was probably in a group of four or five villages near Fiskdale.

Quabagud (Eliot, 1649), QUABACUTT.

“The other large and permanent Quabaug village within our present town limits which became noted in our annals was located in the east part of Brookfield, at the southeasterly end of Quabaug Pond.” (Temple Hist. of N. Brookfield.)

(See *Quaboag*.)

Quabaug, Quebaog, Queboag, Quoboag, BROOKFIELD.

Name of a large pond and river in Brookfield. Eliot wrote it in 1649 as “*Quobagud*.” This may be a corruption of

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Quebaquaug, which Trumbull says from *Aquebapaug*, *Aquabe-paug-auke*, may mean either land 'before the pond' or the 'pond before' some other pond or some tract of land. Dr. Parsons, in his Indian Names of Connecticut, gives *Aquabapaug*, a pond in Connecticut near the head of *Paucatuck* river, as meaning 'muddy water.'

Quabog Lane, "One of the oldest ways in the town of Oxford; perhaps originally an Indian trail was the "Quabog" or Brookfield "Lane," which fording the river at the stone arch bridge entered the 8-rod way from the west." (Daniels, History of Oxford.)

J. H. Temple, in his history of North Brookfield, says, "There is little doubt that the name of our place, as pronounced by the Indians, was *Squapauke* or *Squabaug*. It is a compound word which signifies 'red water place' or 'red pond,' so called from the reddish, iron stained gravel which forms the bottom and shores of the several ponds." "Some of the early spelling was *Squabauge*, *Squabage*." In "New England's Prospect" written in 1634, "Squi" is translated 'red,' therefore, *Squi-baug*. Quabaug river is formed by rivers from Oakham and Rutland which unite in Brookfield.

Quacumouasit.

A pond between Sturbridge and Brookfield, south of Quaboag pond, by which it is connected by a canal, now called South pond. Possibly the name of a Quabaug sachem mentioned in a letter from William Pynchon to Gov. Winthrop written in 1648, although the name is there written "Quacun-quasit."

Quag.

Pond in the S. E. part of Gardner, one of the sources of Pew brook.

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In this form I believe the name must be much corrupted, or a part of it is lost. In its present form the nearest approach to an interpretation might be *Koo-aukee* or *Koo-ag*, 'pine tree land.'

Also name given to Waushacum pond, Sterling.

Quanitick.

Mentioned as one of the boundaries in the Indian deed of Rutland, dated Dec. 22, 1686 (Jonas Reed, Hist. of Rutland, p. 9).

Possibly a corruption of *Qunnuhqui-tugk*, 'tall tree' that served as a landmark; or from *Quinni*—variations *Quan*, *Quon* (long) and *tugk*—variations *Tuk*, *Tak* (tree), 'a long tree.'

In a certified copy of this deed of Rutland, from the Middlesex Co. Records in Cambridge, the name is written *Quenibeck*.

Quasaponikin. Corruption PONIKIN.

A hill in the N. E. part of Lancaster, also the same name given to a meadow and brook in the early records of the town. A village in Lancaster is now called Ponikin. I believe this name applied first to a shallow part of the river near where the brook enters the Nashua. The Northern Indians have the word "Poonichuan," "where the current stops." The Natick dialect has "Ponquag," "a ford," also "Penaekinnu," "it spreads," and Josiah Cotton gives *Pongqui* as "shallow," in his vocabulary. Dr. Trumbull says in his definition of "Quassapaug," "K'chepaug," "greatest pond," a name easily corrupted to *Quassapaug*." (Trumbull, I. N. Conn., p. 59). *Quassaponikin*, corrupted from *k'che-ponquag-in*, would mean, "At the greatest fording place."

Probably same name in Groton, would signify a fording place. Although the name in Groton is spelled *Quosopanagon*, the name of a meadow, "on the other side of the river."

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Quassuck, Quassink.

Now Lead Mine pond in the western part of Sturbridge, mentioned in letter of William Pynchon to Stephen Day in 1644, "that place of Quassuck." I should suppose the name was applied first to Lead Mine brook from its termination, "suck," which signifies "a stream flowing out of a pond or lake." (Trumbull.)

Quas-suck, the largest outlet. Possibly derived from *Quassuk*, with a lost locative suffix, *et* or *ut*, signifying, 'at the rock.' This was the Black Lead Mine property of which John Winthrop, Jr., eldest son of Gov. John Winthrop, received a grant from the General Court in 1644. The existence of this lead was known as early as thirteen years after the landing of the Pilgrims. (See *Tantiusques*.)

Possibly 'Pine tree brook,' *Cowawsuck*.

Quinebaug.

A river which rises in the town of Brimfield, in the county of Hampshire, and runs east into the county of Worcester through Sturbridge, Southbridge and Dudley, into Connecticut.

A long pond in the S. E. part of Killingly, Conn. The Quinebaug tribe of Indians and the river took their name from the pond. *Qunnubbagge* (Gov. Endicott, 1651)—*Quinibauge* (Conn. Col. Rec., 1671)—*Quinni-paug*, 'long pond.'

This name, with slight variations, is found often in the New England States.

The land south of *Wabbaquassit* and *Mahmunsqueeg*, now included in the towns of Plainfield and Canterbury, Conn., was the *Quinebaug* country inhabited by the *Quinebaugs* (Miss Larned, History of Windham Co., vol. 1, p. 2).

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Quinepoxet.

Name of a pond in Princeton and Holden, and also of a river, and hill in Holden. The river and hill probably taking the name from the pond; "appears to be a corruption of the diminutive of *Quinebaug*, with the local affix; *Quinni-paug-es-et*, 'at the little long pond.'" (Trumbull.)

Quinetusset, Quantisset, Quanutusset (Eliot).

An Indian praying village in Thompson, Conn., now Thompson hill. The ruins of an old Indian fort stood on this hill in 1727. Miss Larned gives the name *Quinnatisset*.

On the theory that some of the Indian praying towns were of Eliot's naming William Wallace Tooker gives *Quanutuss-es-et* as its probable etymology "at the place long my supply" or "I have long supplied." (Algonquian series, vol. 10, p. 42.) I would suggest *Quinne-tuckset*, 'near the tall tree,' as a possible translation.

Quinshepaug, Mendon and Milford.

In Barber's Historical Collections it is stated that *Nipmug* seemed to be the original name of Mendon, but in 1667 it was called *Quinshepaug*. It seems probable that both names were originally given to the pond now called Tuft's pond. *Nipmug* *Nippe*, 'fresh water,' *amaug*, 'fishing place.' *Quinshepaug* probably either from *k'che-paug*, i. e., 'greatest pond,' as it certainly is the largest pond in that part of the county, or from *Qunususuog-amaug*, 'Pickerel fishing place' (see *Quinsigamond*).

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Quinsigamond, Quansigemog, Quansigamaug, Quansigamug.

Original name of Worcester. A small lake or large pond between Worcester and Shrewsbury; also the name of a village, taking its name from the lake, forming part of Worcester, from *Quenosuog-amaug*, "the pickerel (or long nose) fishing place." Even at the present day this lake is noted for its pickerel fishing.

Mr. William Lincoln, in his history of Worcester, gives nine different forms of this name, all taken from old deeds, etc. Worcester, in the edition of Hubbard's Narrative, published in 1677, is described as "a village called *Quoneigamog*."

Also the original name of land about Hopkinton.

Also name of small river in Grafton.

Quissitt, Quissett.

A hill in the N. E. part of Blackstone and in Mendon. In this form the interpretation is only tentative, as probably the name is much corrupted. Possibly *Ko-oeset*, from *Ko-owa* or *Koo*, 'pine tree,' with the diminutive *es*, and the locative suffix *et*. (*Cu-we*, 'pine tree,' Del.)

Cowisick, the ancient name of Blackwell's brook in Windham Co., Conn.

Quitemug or Nipmuck.

A hill in Dudley about a mile and a half S. E. of Dudley hill.

In 1630, upon receiving a message from the English that they were much in need of corn, John Quittamug carried a bushel and a half on his back to Boston. He again visited Boston in 1724, and was supposed to be then 112 years old

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(Hutchinson, Hist. of Mass., vol. 2, p. 276, note). He lived near the hill which bears his name.

Saccarappa.

Name now given to a pond and the land about it in the S. E. part of Oxford.

This name was not used in the locality until after 1845. The wife of a Mr. Peters who lived here came from *Saccarappa*, Maine, and it was named in her honor (Daniels' Hist. of Oxford).

Sagatabscot.

A hill in the southeastern part of Worcester, probably from *siogke*, 'hard,' *ompsk*, 'rock,' and the local affix signifying 'the place of hard rock.'

A quarry was extensively worked on the south end of *Sagatabscot* hill for many years. It was on this hill that Digory Serjent lived about 1695, and where he was killed by the Indians in 1703 or 1704.

"The prefix *sioge* and *soggoh* of Eliot, 'hard' (Abm. *saaghi*. Chip. *Sougi*) distinguishes the kind of stone most used by the Indians for making axes, lance heads, pestles, etc.'" (Trumbull.)

Sasagookapaug.

A pond mentioned as a boundary in the original Indian deed of Hardwick in 1686, "easterly the southermost corner upon a pond called *Sasagookapaug*."

This name may be from *Sesegkpaug* or *Sesekqpaug*, 'adder pond'—*Sesequaog*, 'adders or poisonous adders.' *Suckachgook*, 'black snake' (Del.).

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Sasaketasick, Sassakataffick.

Mentioned as a boundary in the original deed of Rutland, March 15, 1686-87 (Middlesex Regs. of Deeds, book 16, p. 511), "So to *Sasaketasick* which is the south corner."

Sések, 'Rattlesnake' (R. W.), *Seasiche* (Wood).

Senexet.

"Valley and meadow land adjoining Muddy Brook in Woodstock," Connecticut, but formerly in Massachusetts, north of the Woodward's and Saffrey's line. Near Pomponagang hill. (On ancient map of Windham Co., vol. 1, Miss Larned.)

Shabikin, Shabokin, Chaboken, etc.

The early name of a tract of land in the N. W. part of Harvard, formerly a part of Stow Leg. I believe this name must have been originally *Chepiohkin*. "*Ohepiohke*," the Indian name for "hell," "the place apart," "the place of separation," with the locative suffix, *in* or *en*. A curious indication that this was the original signification is the fact that the pond in this tract of land has always been called 'Hell Pond.'

"*Shabikin* seems to have been the original designation of that portion of Stow Leg which includes Hell pond." (Nourse, Hist. of Harvard, p. 72.)

"The pioneers always called it Hell Pond, and so it is recorded in the worn and yellow documents of their day that have come down to us." (Nourse, Hist. of Harvard, p. 66.)

Souhegan, Sowhagon.

River rising in the ponds of eastern Ashburnham, flows through the N. W. part of Ashby into New Hampshire.

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and if so I would suggest that the name, *Tataessel*, was the hill and land about the Cascade, and is derived from *Tattan-hassun* and the locative affix, signifying 'At the place of the rocking (shaking) stone,' as on the plateau at the top of the Cascade there is a very large boulder weighing many tons that tradition says could be moved or rocked by very slight pressure. The rock is now split in two, but even in its present condition it is well known.

Tatnuck, Tatnick.

A village in the western part of Worcester. Also name of the brook at the same place, the town and brook taking the name from the hill. Dr. Trumbull says, "probably from *k't-adene-k*, 'at the great hill' (the equivalent of *Katahdin* with locative affix; or perhaps *Wut-aden-ek*, 'at the hill. ' " "

Hill and brook in the southwestern part of Brooklyn, Conn., the same name, "Tatnick."

Titicut, Tittituck.

Keh-teih-tuk-qut (Eliot Bible, Gen. XV:18, "on the great river"). (See *Kuttatuck*.)

Towtaid, LEICESTER.

With very little doubt this name is a corruption of *T'ohteck* or *Act-ohteaek*, and signifies, 'At the open (or cultivated) field.' The early settlers of Leicester found on Bald hill, which is in the easterly part of the town, a little N. W. from the village of Cherry Valley, a large field cleared and cultivated by the Indians. (Washburn's Hist. of Leicester, p. 21.)

(See *Wataquadock*.)

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Uncachewalunk, Unkachewalunk, Kachewalunck.

A large pond in the S. W. part of Lunenburg, on the boundary line of Leominster.

Vaughan, Hill.

A hill in the northwestern part of Bolton.

Hon. Henry S. Nourse in an address on Indian names before the Clinton Historical Society, said "it was first known to early settlers as Van's or Vahan's hill, and as no white man of that name appears here, or even in the bay towns, as an early settler," he believed the name to be of Indian origin.

Wabaquasset, Wabaquassuck.

Name applied to "a tract west of the Quinebaug river north of a line running northwesterly from the junction of the Quinebaug and Assawaga rivers." (Miss Larned's History of Windham Co., 1, page 1.) A small portion of this tract was probably in Worcester county. This was the country of the *Wabaquasset* Indians, who probably were a part of the Nipmuck tribe. It was the original name of Woodstock.

"John Pynchon, 1675, wrote the name *Wabaquassic*, which might be interpreted 'White stone,' but Eliot (in Mass. Arch. Indians, 1-146) has *Wabuhquoshish*, which is certainly the equivalent of *Abockquos'inash*, the mats for covering the house." (R. Williams) (Trumbull's I. N. Conn.) Trumbull also says, "The name originally belonged to some particular locality where the Indians obtained flags used for making mats." The hills of Wabaquasset were famous even in earliest Colonial days for their yield of corn, and it was a Wabaquasset Indian

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who, when our forefathers were in want of bread, soon after their landing, carried a bushel and a half of corn upon his back the whole way from the south part of Worcester county to Boston for the relief of the inhabitants. (Worc. Mag., 1, p. 143 ; Miss Larned's Hist. of Windham Co., 1, p. 2.)

Wacuntug, Wacantuck, Wacatuc.

The Indian name of land about Uxbridge.

This name may be a corruption of *Wongun-tuck-et* — 'At the bend of the river.' The name could appropriately be applied to parts of the Blackstone, West, or Mumford rivers.

"There is yet another praying town in the Nipmuck country called Waeuntug. It lieth about ten miles from Hassana-mesitt to the south of this place." (Daniel Gookin, Mass. Hist. Coll., series 1, vol. 1, p. 194.)

Wachusett, Wadchusett.

A mountain in Princeton. The same name is also given to a brook in Princeton, and to a small lake in Princeton and Westminster. The name, which signifies 'near' or 'in the vicinity' of the mountain, has been transferred to the mountain itself.

Wadchu, mountain, with the locative suffix, *set*, 'near.'

Watchusecic.

Hill in Uxbridge, mentioned in an address at Uxbridge by Hon. Henry Chapin in 1864. In this form it is probably a corruption. It is very similar to "Wachusett" in Princeton and may be a diminutive, meaning 'at' or 'near the little hill.' (See *Wachusett*.)

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Wallamanumpscook.

Mentioned as a boundary in Indian deed of Rutland, Dec. 22, 1686 (Middlesex Reg. of Deeds, libro 16, page 511, Apr. 14, 1714).

This name is very similar to *Wullamanick* with the addition of "umps" and possibly may have designated 'a place where a rock rose from red paint ground' (see *Wullamanick*) ; *ompsk*, "standing or upright rock," *ock*, 'ground' or 'place.'

Wallum.

Pond and hill, southwest part of Douglas, the pond extending into Burrillville, R. I. "So called from a Quinebaug captain, whose name (meaning 'The Fox' Peq. *A'wumps*) was variously written: *Allums*, *Allumps*, *Hyems*, *Hyemps*, *Iams*, etc.—Conn. Col. Rec., IV, 272, 333, 351 (Trumbull).

2. *Alum* pond, in the N. W. part of Sturbridge, and Little Allum pond in the N. E. part of Holland, Mass., sources of the Quinebaug river.

"The Indian proprietors of Quaboag, now Brookfield, had given to the Rev. John Eliot, late of Roxbury, Clerk, deceased, "a tract of land at a place known as 'Alum ponds' lying in the wilderness west of Brookfield, of one thousand acres, as a tribute of their affection for him," date of the grant Sept. 27, 1655. This grant was confirmed by the legislature in 1715 to John Eliot, his grandson." (Mrs. Freeland, Hist. of Oxford.)
(See *Wullamanick*.)

Wanchatopick, Wonketopick.

Boundary in Indian deed of Dec. 22, 1686, from John Wiser alias Qualapunit et al. to Henry Willard et al. land

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under general name of Naquag "running north to Quenibec
and to *Wonketopick*."

Rutland or *Wanchatopeck* pond on the S. W. border of
Princeton. (Hanaford, Hist. of Princeton.)

Wanommock, Wanomchouck.

Ponds described in Lieut. Fairbank's Journal as "called
thirty miles from Lancaster." (E. R. of L., Nourse, p. 219.)

Wenomin-aukee, 'Grape land,' or 'Grape country.'

Wenomeneash, 'Grapes.' (R. W., p. 91.)

Wanoosnoc.

The name of a road in Fitchburg.

(See *Monoosnoc*.)

Wapososhequash.

A hill a mile or two west of what is now Woodstock hill,
Wabbaquasset (Miss Larned, Hist. of Windham Co., vol. 1, p.
10).

Watananock.

Another name for the Nashua river.

"*Nashaway* or *Watananock* river." (Colonial Records, 4,
part 11, p. 569.) I can find no satisfactory translation for this
name.

Dr. Trumbull says, in regard to the derivation of the name
" *Weantinock*," "the equivalent of Chip. *Waianatanarug*, 'where
the water whirls' (Baraja). It may, however, designate the
place where the river winds about the hill — *Waen-adn-aukee*, or
'land about the hill.'" (Trumbull, I. N. Conn., p. 80.)
Watananock may have the same derivation. The termination

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in its present form "ock" certainly applies to land rather than to water, in the Natick tongue.

Wataquadock.

"By which the great ridge which bounds the Nashaway valley on the east has ever been known." (Bibl. of Lancastriana, Nourse, p. 71.)

Hill in the S. W. part of Bolton, also name of a brook probably taken from the name of the hill. First mentioned in Lancaster Records, in 1655.

The name I believe may be a corruption of *Wutruhgohteuk*, *Wuttuhq*, 'Branches of trees,' or 'wood for fuel,'—*ohteuk*, a 'field or land which is cultivated,' signifying a tract of open land over which fallen trees were scattered—'a wood-land.'

2. A hill, pond and brook in Brimfield.

Watatick.

Name of mountain in N. E. part of Ashburnham, also Little Watatick mountain; also name of pond near the mountain.

This name, probably, is a corruption of *Wetu-tick*, 'wigwam brook,' a brook on which the Indians lived. The name probably first applied to the large stream near the mountain, and afterward applied to the mountain and pond. Dr. Trumbull gives as the probable meaning of *Weataug*, from *Weetauog*, or *Wetu-aukee*, signifying 'wigwam place' (T., I. N. Conn., p. 80).

Washwantohminunk, Washwantownnowmow.

A hill in Woodstock, Conn., but very near the Massachusetts line. (Map in Miss Larned's Hist. of Windham Co., vol. 1.)

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Waushacum.

The name of two large ponds in Sterling, on the Worcester & Nashua Railroad, near the Sterling Camp-ground.

Roger Williams gives *Wechecum* as the Indian name for the sea, and this probably is the same word.

Dr. Usher Parsons, in his " Indian Names of Places in Rhode Island," says, " In Narraganset dialect springs were called *Watchkecum*."

Wecobaug, Wicabaug, Wickaboag.

A pond in the western part of West Brookfield, " and has one large outlet into the river twenty or thirty rods in length, called *Lashaway* (Whitney's Worc. County, 79). Tradition says it meant " sweet water." If so, probably from *we kon*, ' it is sweet,' and *paug*, ' pond.' " *Wequa-paug* means 'at the end of the pond.' " (Trumbull, Indian Names in Conn., 84.)

In deed of Shattoocquis to Lieut. Thomas Cooper, Nov. 10th, 1665, mentioned as a boundary, " & soe westwards off to ye North end of *Wecobaug* Pond." (Hampden Co. Records, liber A, folio 18.)

Wickabaug, the Indian village, now West Brookfield. (Quinabaug Soc. Leaflets, No. 7, Levi B. Chase.)

Wekapekatonnuc, Wikapokotownow.

A hill mentioned in the original deed of Leicester as one of the boundaries. On the map " as first laid out in 1714-17," made by the Hon. Jas. A. Denny, the western boundary as described in the original deed of Towtai'd is not given. The meaning of the name is very obscure, but I would suggest *Wequac-pohqutae-uc*, ' the point of land where they divide in two,'

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probably referring to some hill in the northern part of Charlton, or in Spencer, between the branches of some brook.

“And westerly, the most southermost corner, upon a little pond called *Paupakquamcock*, then to a hill called *Wikapokotownow*.” (Washburn, Hist. of Leicester, appendix.)

Wequaes, Ueques.

Mentioned as a boundary in the Indian deed of Hardwick in 1686. “And soe up northerly unto a place called *Wequaes*.” (Hampden Co. Records, liber D, folio 237.) Uhquae signifies ‘at the point or extremity of,’ ahquae, ‘on the other end.’

Whipsuppenicke, Whipsufferadge.

The land granted to the settlers of Marlboro, “became known as the *Whipsuppenick* or more commonly the *Whipsufferadge* Plantation from the Indian name of the hill which lies a mile or so south of *Okommokamesit*.” (DeForest, Hist. of Marlboro, p. 14.) This grant was increased later, and what was then known as Marlboro now constitutes Southborough, most of Westborough and Northborough and a part of Hudson.

Wickapicket.

A brook rising in Sterling, flows through the northwestern part of Lancaster into the north branch of the Nashua river. Dr. Trumbull, referring to *Wecuppe'mee*, a small river in Connecticut, writes: “Tradition says that *Wickapema* is the name of an Indian chief who lives on the place.” “His name means Basswood, or the Linden, a tree highly valued by the Indians, from which they make ropes and mats. The *wikopi* of the Indians was the bast of the Germans and English (corrupted to bass).” (Trumbull, I. N. Conn., page 81.)

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I would suggest that the Lancaster name might be derived from *Wikopi-aukee-et*, 'the place where lindens are.' The word, *aukee* signifying 'land' or 'ground' or 'place.' In the early history of Lancaster the name is spelled six different ways, but Henry S. Nourse, of Lancaster, gave this spelling, and his authority is undoubted. *Wequapauget*, 'at the end of the pond.'

Wiccopee.

A name of a pass in Dutchess Co., N. Y., also of a pond in Putnam Co., N. Y., also a name of a New York tribe of Indians.

Wigwam.

A name given to a hill on the western shore of lake Quinsigamond by the early planters. "It was probably a favorite place of residence for the Indians who ranged along the shores of the lake for fish and game." (Lincoln's History of Worcester.)

In this form it is not properly the Indian name of the hill, and I have found no name by which the Indians designated it. We find the name *Wetang*, in Connecticut, which Trumbull says "seems to denote a place where the Indians lived or had their wigwams (*wetu-aukee*, 'wigwam, place')," and also *wetau-wanchu*, mountain.

Also name of hill in the southwestern part of Mendon, and the same name has been used quite frequently throughout New England.

Winnimissett, Wenimisset.

A brook rising in the southern part of New Braintree, flowing north into the Ware river. Also name of Indian town for-

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merly on the brook. Possibly from *Weenomissuck*, 'grape vine brook,' or *Weenomisset*, 'near the grape vine'—referring to some well known grape vine in this vicinity—from *Weenom*, 'a grape,' and 'Weenomis,' vine.

In this neighborhood was located the swamp—the scene of Capt. Wheeler's and Capt. Hutchinson's memorable surprise and defeat by the Indians Aug. 2nd, 1675.

Capt. Edw. Hutchinson was the first person buried in the old burying ground in Marlborough, *Ockoocangansett*, Aug. 19, 1675.

Wombemesiscock, Wombemesiscock, Wombem- sicunck, Wombomesscock.

The Indian name of the land about Hardwick. Probably a corruption of *Wompimish-aukee*, the chestnut tree country, 'the place of the chestnut trees' (*Wompomineash*, 'chestnuts,' R. W., p. 89). "The principal growth of wood (in Hardwick) is oak, chestnut and walnut." (Whitney, p. 176.)

Land near Quabaug, commonly known by the name of *Wom-
bemesiscock*. (Hampden Co. Records, liber D, folio 237.)

Wonchesix.

This name is found in a deposition made by Thos. Wilder in 1681—refers to land left by Jno. Prescott, Sen. to his eldest son, "fourty acors of land nere *Wonchesix*" (Middlesex court files). Probably in Clinton near *Washacum* (see *Woonkseckock-
sett*).

Woonksechocksett, Wonksacoxet, Ocsechoxit, Chocksett.

Name applied to land about Sterling.

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Wonksis-aukee-set. Might mean 'near the place of foxes,' 'Fox country.'

Wopowage.

Erroneously given in Nason's Massachusetts Gazetteer and in Hayward's Gazetteer of New England as the Indian name of Milford. Mr. Adin Ballou states in his history of Milford (p. 14) that he consulted Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull in regard to this name, who wrote to him that it was the Indian name of Milford, Conn., never of Milford, Mass.

Derived from *Weepwoi-auk*, "the crossing place."

Wullamanick.

A hill in Brookfield north of Quabaug pond near Five Mile river, mentioned as a boundary of Brookfield in the Indian deed from Sattoockquis to Lieut. Thos. Cooper, Nov. 10, 1665 (Mass. Hist. Coll., series 1, vol. 1, p. 269). The root of this name with variations (Wallam, Wollam, Wullam, Willim, Alum) is found in a number of Indian place names in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Roger Williams, in the "Key to the Indian Language" (p. 154), translates "*Wunnam*" "Their red painting which they most delight in." The Nipmucks used the letter L for the Narragansett N. Mr. Harry Wright tells me that the Indians about Hudson Bay use the word *Woloman* or *Wolomon* as meaning something red, not a synonym for red, but for something colored red. The gum which they use on their boats and which they color red they called Woloman. I believe the name Wullaman-ick signified 'Red Paint Country,' a place where they found red earth which they used for their painting. *Walamansups* Falls at Indian Orchard, Mass. *Walaman-ompsk*, 'Red colored upright rocks,' and a ledge of bright red sandstone, I am informed, runs for two miles along the falls and rapids.

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Wunnashowatuckqut, Showatuckqut.

“The country of the Wunnashowatuckoogs mentioned by Roger Williams in 1637 as confederates of the Pequots. They were neighbors of the Wusquowhananawkits (i. e., people of the Pigeon Country).” “Who are the furthermost Nipnet men.” (Mass. Hist. Coll., v. 1, pp. 188, 198, 197, 207.)

In Worcester county, Mass., “at the crotch of the river,” as the name denotes probably at the forks of the Blackstone river, or perhaps between Quinebaug and French rivers.” (J. H. T., I. N. in Conn., p. 91.)

Wusquowhanawkits.

“People of the Pigeon country.”

“Who are the furthermost Nipnet men.”

(*Wuskowhan*, ‘Pigeon,’ R. W.) Probably near the forks of the Blackstone.

(See *Wunnashowatuckqut*.)



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